DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BUREAU OF INTELL GENCE OD PRIZABOH

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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INTELLIGENCE POTE: CON AND CONTROL OVAKIA SEEK ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT AND

SECRETARY OF STATE

Prague-Ravana Route Most Valuable and Sec to. It is increasingly apparent that by far the most valuable and legally occurs air link which Moscow has with Cuba consists of Czech Airlines and Air Cabana flights between Prague and Havana.

These Flights, made by Brastol Britannia aircraft, run on a scheduled and non-scheduled basis under the provision of air agreements which Cuba and Czechoslovakia, both mimbers of ICAC, have with the UK, Ireland, and Canada. Wesself aircraft, such as the Bristol Britannia, are essential on this route since the TL-16 and other types of bloc aircraft do not meet ICAO airworthiness scandards and are not permitted to use fir facilities on this rouse.

Differts to Buy Hore Aircraft and Paros. Both Czec Blovakia and Cuba a goar to be accelerating efforts to purchase additional Britannias from Western countries, as well as to obtain reserves of spare parts to keep the aircraft now in service operating at maximum capacity. Top Level Soviet-Czech talks in Moscow this week appeared related to Soviet efforts to facilitate the flow of aid to Castro. If the Unit to minimize the sir flow of aid to Cuba, Free World denial or at least delay in the licensing of sales of additional Britannias and spare parts to Cub, and Czechoslovakia assumes major importance. Their acquisition by Air Cubana and SSA would strengthen an air channel from the bloc to Cuba which the US has been to be intended and which at least can probably only be subject to see that the Air intended the DATES.